

-16-

We claim:

1. A method for transforming a message represented as an element of a complete residue set modulo a prime number p into a Montgomery residue of a multiplicative inverse, the method comprising:
 - 5 selecting a Montgomery radix $R = 2^m$, wherein m is an integer multiple of a wordsize, and m is greater than a bit-length of the prime number p ;
 - determining (r, k) from an almost Montgomery inverse function;
 - if k is less than m , then assigning r a value obtained as a Montgomery
 - 10 product of r and $R^2 \bmod p$, and assigning k a value $k = k + m$; and
 - obtaining the multiplicative inverse as a Montgomery product of r and 2^{2m-k} .
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising retrieving a stored value
- 15 of $R^2 \bmod p$.
3. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for performing the method of claim 2.
- 20 4. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for performing the method of claim 1.
5. A cryptographic system for encryption and decryption, the system comprising a module for transforming a message as recited in claim 1.
- 25 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the message is a ciphertext.

-17-

7. A method for obtaining a classical inverse of a message, represented as a series of binary digits, that is an element of a residue set modulo a prime number p , the method comprising:

obtaining values (r,k) by calculating an almost Montgomery inverse
5 function of the representation of the message using a Montgomery radix $R = 2^m$, wherein m is an integer multiple of a wordsize and is greater than a bit-length of the prime number p ;

if k is greater than m , then assigning r a value equal to a Montgomery product of r and 1, and assigning k a value of $k - m$; and

10 calculating the classical inverse as a Montgomery product of r and 2^{m-k} .

8. A cryptographic system, comprising an encryption/decryption module that performs the method of claim 7.

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9. The cryptographic system of claim 8, further comprising at least one integrated circuit.

10. A computer-readable medium, comprising instructions for
20 performing the method of claim 7.

11. A cryptographic method, comprising:
representing a message as a series of binary digits, the series being
divisible into an integer number m of words;

25 selecting a prime number p ;

obtaining an intermediate product r and an integer k using an almost Montgomery inverse procedure, wherein a Montgomery radix $R = 2^m$, and m is greater than a bit-length of the prime number p ;

-18-

if $k < m$, then assigning r a value obtained as a Montgomery product of r and $R^2 \bmod p$, and assigning k a value of $k + m$;

assigning r a value obtained as a Montgomery product of r' and $R^2 \bmod p$; and

5 obtaining a multiplicative inverse as a Montgomery product of r and 2^{2m-k} .

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising retrieving a stored value of $R^2 \bmod p$.

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13. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for performing the method of claim 12.

14. A method for computing a classical inverse of a message a , the method comprising:

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(a) selecting an integer m that is greater than a bit-length of the message a , and selecting a Montgomery radix $R = 2^m$;

(b) selecting a prime number p ;

(c) representing the message a as a series of binary digits, the series being divided into m words;

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(d) obtaining a value $r = a^{-1} 2^m \bmod p$;

(e) obtaining the classical inverse as a Montgomery product of r and

1.

25 15. A method for computing a classical inverse of a message a , the method comprising:

(a) selecting an integer m that is greater than a bit-length of the message a , and selecting a Montgomery radix $R = 2^m$;

(b) selecting a prime number p ;

-19-

(c) representing the message a as a series of binary digits, the series being divided into m words;

(d) obtaining a value r as a Montgomery product of the message a and $R^2 \bmod p$; and

5 (e) obtaining the classical inverse as a Kaliski inverse of r .

16. A method for computing a multiplicative inverse of an M-residue $A = a2^m \bmod p$, wherein p is a prime number, m is an integer, and a Montgomery radix $R = 2^m$, the method comprising: computing an
10 intermediate product r and an integer k using an almost Montgomery inverse procedure;

assigning an intermediate product r' the value of a Montgomery product of r and R^2 ; and

15 obtaining the multiplicative inverse as a Montgomery product of r' and 2^{2m-k} .

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

determining if the integer k is greater than or equal to m ; and

if the integer k is k is greater than or equal to m , assigning the
20 intermediate product r' the value of a Montgomery product of r and R^2 and assigning k a value of $k + m$ prior to obtaining the step of obtaining the multiplicative inverse.

18. The method of claim 16, further comprising retrieving a value of
25 $R^2 \bmod p$.

19. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for performing the method of claim 18.

-20-

20. A cryptographic method for processing a series of binary digits divided into an integer number m of words, the method comprising:

selecting a Montgomery radix $R = 2^m$ and a prime number p ;

executing an almost Montgomery inverse procedure to obtain an

5 intermediate value r and an integer k ; and

obtaining a Montgomery product of r .

21. A cryptographic method, comprising:

dividing a message into at least two words;

10 selecting a Montgomery radix based on a number of words in the message; and

performing a Montgomery multiplication to transform the message.